

**CITY OF ROCKVILLE**  
**Department of Recreation and Parks**  
**2012 YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE BY-LAWS**

**I. OBJECTIVES**

- A. To offer all Rockville youth, Ankle Bitters through Midgets, the opportunity to participate and compete in an organized soccer league.
- B. To offer these participants the opportunity to learn elementary and advanced soccer skills in a recreational setting.
- C. To convey the Recreation and Parks Department's attitude of fair play and good sportsmanship to the participants, coaches and spectators.

**II. LEAGUE DIRECTOR**

- A. The League shall operate under the rules that will be administered by the League Director: Jen Betts
- B. Duties of the League Director will include the following:
  - 1. Consider soccer league rule changes
  - 2. Make decisions concerning protests.
  - 3. Approve requests for player transfers.
  - 4. Determine player eligibility.
  - 5. General league administration.
  - 6. Serve as a voting member on conduct review board; to suspend any coach(es), player(s), or spectator(s) with reasonable cause.

**III. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND TEAM MEMBERSHIP**

- A. All residents and non-residents are eligible for this program as long as the participants qualify for the ages divisions listed below in paragraph B.
- B. Players are assigned teams according to their year of birth and school district.  
(Children must play in divisions corresponding with year of birth.)

\*Age divisions-

- a. Ankle Bitters Division - youth in pre-kindergarten, 4 years old
  - b. Tiny Kicks Division- youth in kindergarten- first grade
  - c. Pee Wees Division - youth in second-third grade
  - d. Bantam Division - youth in fourth- fifth grade
  - e. Midget Division - youth in sixth- eighth grade
- C. Players shall be officially signed on the roster of only one (1) team in the league.
- D. The transfer of player(s) from any team in a league must be submitted in writing for approval by the League Director.
  - 1. No transfer will be permitted after a team has played two (2) regular season games.
  - 2. General grounds for a transfer are as follows:
    - a. Players moving to a new geographic area.

- b. Request to play on a newly established team in a player's area when in the previous year that player had been playing outside his/her area.
  - 3. When a player changes schools without moving geographically and wants to play with his classmates (This does not include the normal movement from the elementary school level to the secondary school level.) The closure of schools and the reassignment of youth to new schools should not affect the team's unity from the previous year.
- E. Any player who quits (not transferred from) a team or is removed from a team for disciplinary reasons by a coach must miss at least one (1) regular season game. The fact that a player is quitting or is dismissed from a team must be reported to the League Director. After the one-game period, the League Director may reassign the player unless circumstances warrant suspension of the player.
- F. Youth who play on secondary level school soccer teams, including middle school teams are eligible to participate in the City recreation leagues. However, school coaches should be apprised of the youth's decision or desire to participate in both programs.
- G. Players may only be added to a team roster (after roster has been submitted to the League Director) with the specific approval of the League Director. Penalty is forfeiture of all games in which the added player participates along with a review of the coach. Any player(s) added to the roster of any team after the team has played half its regular season games is ineligible for post-season tournament play.

#### IV. GENERAL LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION

- A. Team Roster
  - 1. Each coach must obtain and keep at all times a league roster approved by the League Director.
  - 2. Teams should have Agreement of Participate/Release forms submitted to the Recreation and Parks Department prior to **5:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 4, 2012**, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
  - 3. Teams or individuals with outstanding paperwork will not be able to participate in any league games.
- B. Uniforms
  - 1. Each player is required to wear a uniform consisting of a T-shirt and shorts or pants (sweatpants are preferred.) Team shirts are provided by the City and should always be worn as the outer layer of clothing (over jackets, etc.)
  - 2. Players are required to wear tennis shoes or rubber-molded cleats only.
  - 3. It is **mandatory** that all players wear shinguards for protection. Players not wearing shinguards **will not** be permitted to play.
- C. Equipment: All required game equipment will be provided by the Recreation and Parks Department.

1. Game balls will be provided by the City – Ankle Bitter, Tiny Kicks and Pee Wees will use a #3 ball, Bantams will use a #4 ball, Midgets will use a #5 ball.
  2. Goal post dimensions:  
Ankle Bitters and Tiny Kicks-3'h x 4'w  
Pee Wees- 4'h x6'w x 4'd  
Bantams -12 feet  
Midgets- 24 feet
- D. Protests: Protests will be accepted by the League Director as to player eligibility only. Teams using ineligible players may forfeit games. Coaches shall be responsible for the eligibility their players.
- E. Officials: An official will be scheduled by the Recreation and Parks Department before each game. The Ankle Bitter and Tiny Kicks programs uses leaders, not officials.
- F. Inclement Weather
1. Decisions regarding cancellations of weekday practices, due to inclement weather, will be at the discretion of the coach.
  2. In the event of inclement weather on weekends, the game cancellation procedures will be as follows:
    - a. For the most part, weekend games will not be canceled from the Recreation and Parks Department office. However, coaches are required to call the Recreation Weather Line, at 240-314-5055.
    - b. If the pre-recorded message does not specify cancellation of games or if you're unable to get through to the Recreation Line, both teams should report to the playing field and a decision to play will be made by the site supervisor and/or official.
- G. Play-offs: There will be a post-season divisional tournament at the end of the season for the Midget Division only to determine the league champions.

## **V. RULES OF CONDUCT**

- A. Player Conduct
1. Players are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship before, during and after games and practices. Unsportsmanlike behavior includes, but is not limited to the following:
    - a. Disrespectfully addressing or physical contact of an official or gesturing in such a manner as to indicate resentment.
    - b. Using profanity.
    - c. Maliciously running over a player.
    - d. Chanting or yelling at the opposing team. Chanting is any yelling in unison.

2. Players who exhibit unsportsmanlike behavior may be ejected from the game and based on the reports of the game official may be suspended from the team's next league game or for a period deemed fair by the League Director.

**B. Coach's Conduct**

1. Coaches are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship before, during and after games and practices. Unsportsmanlike behavior includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. Disrespectfully addressing an official.
  - b. Attempting to influence an official's decision.
  - c. Using profanity.
  - d. Disrespectfully addressing or baiting an opponent.
  - e. Objecting to an official's decision by leaving the bench area and/or charging the official. (Outside the coach/players box)
  - f. Inciting undesirable crowd reactions.
  - g. Receiving a red card during a game.
2. Coaches who exhibit unsportsmanlike behavior may be ejected from the game and based on the reports of the game officials may be suspended from the team's next league game or for a period deemed fair by the League Director.

**C. Spectator Conduct**

No person connected to a team in any capacity, including team followers shall taunt, bait, insult or threaten an opponent/game official by language/gesture that is deemed profane, threatening, discriminatory, or in bad taste.

It is the responsibility of the coach to control his own behavior and that of his assistant(s) and spectators. No coach or spectator may enter the field without the official's permission.

**D. Ejection's/Suspensions**

1. If a player or coach is disqualified a second time during the season, he shall be suspended for the remainder of the season, or longer if deemed fair by the League Director.
2. A player who does not serve his suspension shall be denied participation in the League for a period of not less than one year, and his team shall forfeit all games in which he/she participated.
3. A coach who knowingly uses a suspended or ineligible player may forfeit their coaching position, and the team shall forfeit all games in which the player participated.

## VI. RULES OF PLAY

A. Play in the Youth Soccer League will be governed by the Laws of Association Football (soccer), except as amended by these by-laws.

B. Number of Players on a Team

1. Teams and roster sizes for the various divisions are:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Max. Roster Size *</u>
Ankle Bitters	3	4 v 4	10
Tiny Kicks	3	4 v 4	10
Pee Wees	3	7 v 7	15
Bantams	4	9 v 9	17
Midgets	5	11 v 11	20

\*Teams exceeding the maximum must meet approval of the League Director.

2. Ankle Bitters play 4 v 4 (no goalie), Tiny Kicks play 4 v 4 (no goalie), Pee Wees play 7 v 7, Bantams plays 9 v 9 and Midgets play 11 v 11. In the Midget Division, a team must have at least nine players to start and continue a game. The Midget Division is the only division that has playoffs. Pee Wee and Bantams must play with required number of players.

3. In the event that a player is injured or disqualified, play will continue unless the official deems play to be detrimental to the safety and welfare of the players.

4. All Rostered players in attendance at league games must participate. Such participation/substitution will be governed as follows:

- a. At period breaks
- b. With the consent of the official:
  - (1) Prior to kick off.
  - (2) Prior to a goal-kick by either team
  - (3) Prior to a corner kick (Pee Wee and Bantams only).
  - (4) On injury.
  - (5) Upon issuance of a yellow card\*
  - (6) Prior to the throw-in in your favor.

\*Only players involved may be substituted; if so, opposing team may sub like number.

C. In the Rockville soccer program, every rostered player present at games shall play as follows: not less than one half game in the Tiny Kicks, Pee Wee and Bantam Divisions; Midget Division no less than one quarter. Violation of this rule may lead to forfeiture of the game.

D. Pee Wee and Bantam teams are encouraged to roster a minimum of two (2) females per team. Further, it is recommended that one female play at all times. Midget teams are encouraged to roster a minimum of three (3) females per team, with two (2) playing at all times.

- E. If any player(s) are on suspension, injured, or sick, notification of the player's status should be made to the opposing coach and the field supervisor before the start of the game.
- F. **No slide tackling will be permitted. Any slide tackling could result in an ejection.**

C. Starting the Game

- 1. All games will start on time as indicated on the schedule. If a team is not ready to play ten minutes after the scheduled game time (or the scheduled field becomes available), the official shall declare a forfeit. (Midget division only).
- 2. The home team (listed on the right side of the schedule) will kick-off to start the game. The away team will select which side of the field they want to occupy to start the game.
- 3. Midget Division Only. If a team starts the game with less than eleven (11) players, and a 10th or 11th player arrives, an official time-out shall be called at the very first rule infraction, or an out-bout ball, then the substitution shall be made.

D. Length of Game

- 1. Pee Wee and Bantam Division games shall consist of four (4) ten (10) minute quarters (running time). A period of one minute (60 seconds) MAXIMUM will be allowed between quarters. Half-time periods shall not exceed five (5) minutes. Exception: Ankle Bitters and Tiny Kicks - see Addendum to Soccer League Rules.
- 2. Midget Division games shall consist of two (2) twenty four (24) minute halves (running time). Half-time periods shall not exceed five (5) minutes.

E. Off-Sides

- 1. "Off-Sides" will be enforced in all Bantam and Midget league games only.
- 2. "Off-Sides" will not be called in the Ankle Bitters, Tiny Kicks, and Pee Wee except for flagrant situations.